

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-8, 16, 17, 22 and 24 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 16, 17 and 22 are independent. Claims 4, 19, 21 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 16, 17 and 22 have been amended herein.

Initially, Applicant once more respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 29, 2005, and indicate such consideration by initialing and returning a copy of the Form PTO-1449 provided therewith. A copy of that form is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 4 and 23 recite allowable subject matter. Claims 4 and 23 have been cancelled herein and the subject matter of those claims has been incorporated into independent Claims 1 and 22, respectively. In addition, independent Claim 17 has been amended similarly to Claim 1, but with modification to the control step, rather than the conversion means. Claim 16 has been amended to include the allowable features of Claim 23. Thus, Claims 1, 16, 17 and 22, as well as Claims 5-8 and 24, which depend therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 4-8, 16, 17, 19 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner questioned how the conversion means and acquisition means in Claim 1 can read on the preferred embodiment. It is respectfully submitted that the claimed features find clear support in the specification and drawings. For example, the conversion means and the acquisition means can read on the different functions performed by memory control unit 121. The conversion means can perform the functions of Steps S103 and S104 in Figure 5, namely, acquiring an address in memory block 131 of head unit 103 and generating an access signal 122. The acquisition means can read on the function performed in Step S105, namely, acquiring information as memory read data 123. Of course, the claims are not intended to be limited in scope to this preferred embodiment. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection are requested.

Claims 1, 5-8, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, but have either been cancelled or are believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejection, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

This Amendment After Final Rejection does not raise new issues, is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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